

Application No. 10/072,018  
SD-6823.1

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## REMARKS

### Claim Status:

Claims 1-27 are pending.

Claims 1-8, 12-17, 21-23 and 25 are rejected.

Claims 9-11, 18-20, 24, 26 and 27 are allowed.

### Allowed Claims

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 9-11, 18-20, 24, 26 and 27.

### Claim Objections

Claims 1-8, 12-17, 21-23, and 25 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant agrees that claim 1 contained no additional limitations over claim 9.

In response, applicant cancelled claim 1, and amended claims 2, 4, 6-8, 12-13, 15-17, 21 and 23 to depend from claim 9, rather than from claim 1 (now cancelled).

All of these claims further limit the subject matter of the previous claim. Hence, the objection has been overcome.

### Claim Rejections - 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-8, 12-17, 21-23, and 25 were rejected under 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As discussed above, applicant cancelled claim 1, and amended claims 2, 4, 6-8, 12-13, 15-17, 21 and 23 to depend from claim 9, rather than from claim 1 (now cancelled).

All of these claims further limit the subject matter of the previous claim. Hence, the rejection as being indefinite has been overcome.

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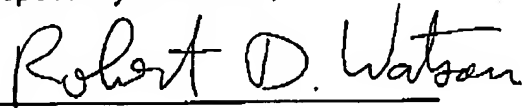
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CONCLUSION

Applicants have responded to each and every objection and rejection, and urge that the claims as presented and amended are now in condition for allowance. Applicants request expeditious processing to issuance.

The Office is authorized to charge Deposit Account # 19-0131 for any necessary fees regarding this response.

Respectfully submitted,



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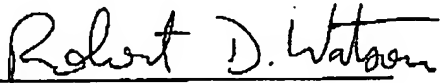
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